

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, and 12-15 are pending in the present application; Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, and 12 having been amended; Claims 13-15 having been added; and Claims 2, 6, and 10 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, and 12 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for the present amendment can be found in the claims as originally filed, in the original specification, and in the original Figures. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 3 were objected to as containing informalities; and Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ito et al. (Japan Publication No. 2000-149293, hereinafter "Ito").

In response to the outstanding objection to Claims 1 and 3, Claims 1 and 3 are amended to correct the noted informalities. No new matter is added. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection to Claims 1 and 3 be withdrawn.

In response to the outstanding rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

A lens drive apparatus, comprising:

a movable section including a plurality of either drive coils or magnetic field means for moving a mounted lens in an optical axis direction and a moving direction orthogonal to said optical axis direction; and

a fixed section configured to support said movable section, said fixed section including said plurality of magnetic field means if the movable section includes said drive coils or

said fixed section including the plurality of drive coils if the movable section includes said magnetic field means, wherein

an x-coordinate value of a center of gravity G and an x-coordinate value of a driving center Df do not accord with each other, a z-axis is set to pass through the center of gravity of the movable section in a direction parallel to the optical axis, a y-axis is set in said moving direction of the lens, an x-axis is set in a direction orthogonal to the z-axis and the y-axis, the center of gravity of said movable section is G, a driving center of the movable section in the z-axis direction is Df, **a z-coordinate value of the center of gravity G and a z-coordinate value of a driving center Dt are approximately equal, and a driving center of said movable section in the y-axis direction is defined as Dt.**

As explained in the original specification, at page 28, lines 1-12, Applicants' invention improves upon conventional devices because its configuration allows lens drive apparatuses to have a small shape and a simple structure.

The outstanding Office Action, on page 3, states that Ito discloses that the z-coordinate value of the center of gravity G and the z-coordinate value of the driving center Dt are approximately equal. However, it is respectfully submitted that Ito only describes a common driving point in a focus direction (z-axis) and a tracking direction (y-axis).¹

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part "a z-coordinate value of the center of gravity G and a z-coordinate value of a driving center Dt are approximately equal, and a driving center of said movable section in the y-axis direction is defined as Dt." It is respectfully submitted that Ito does not disclose the relationship between the center of gravity 17 of a movable section 10 and the driving point 28 in the direction of the y-axis. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a z-coordinate value of the center of gravity G and a z-coordinate value of the driving center Dt are not inherently equal. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Ito does not disclose, either explicitly or inherently, every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

¹ See Ito, at paragraph [0026].

Independent Claims 5 and 9, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of independent Claims 1, 5, 9, and all Claims dependent thereon, as anticipated by Ito be withdrawn.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that new dependent Claims 13-15 further patentably over Ito. New Claim 13 recites that “the plurality of either drive cells or magnetic field means includes a first drive coil or a first magnetic field means and a second drive coil or a second magnetic field means, the first drive coil or the first magnetic field means ***located only on a first side*** of the movable section, and the second drive coil or the second magnetic field means ***located only on a second side*** of the movable section, ***the second side being opposite the first side.***” New Claims 14 and 15 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to new Claim 13.

Ito describes an objective lens drive device and an optical disk drive. Specifically, Ito describes an objective disk drive device includes an objectable lens 1 provided on a central part of a lens holder 2, a tracking coil 4 provided on one surface of the unsupported side of a lens holder 2, and a focus coil 3 that is wound around the side surface periphery of the lens holder 2.² Thus, Ito describes a first coil, a tracking coil 4, provided on one side of the lens holder 2, and a second coil, focus coil 3, that is directly wound around the ***entire periphery*** of the lens holder 2, including the side which the tracking coil 4 is located on.

Therefore, Ito does not disclose or suggest “the plurality of either drive cells or magnetic field means includes a first drive coil or a first magnetic field means and a second drive coil or a second magnetic field means, the first drive coil or the first magnetic field means ***located only on a first side*** of the movable section, and the second drive coil or the

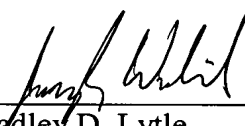
² See Ito, at the Abstract.

second magnetic field means *located only on a second side* of the movable section, *the second side being opposite the first side,*” as recited in amended Claim 13.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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